UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/929
S/1994/471
20 April 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 114 (b)
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 18 April 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic issued on 15 April 1994.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 114 (b), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan on 15 April 1994

[Original: Russian]

On 16 February 1994, the press service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia issued a statement in which the Armenian side officially acknowledged that it had shot eight Azerbaijani prisoners, with the comment that they had been killed during an attempt to escape.

On 23 March 1994, thanks to the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the corpses of 10 Azerbaijani nationals were transported from Armenia to Azerbaijan. These bodies were examined by a commission of forensic experts of the union of practical sciences "Forensic Examinations and Pathological Anatomy" which is part of the Ministry of Health of Azerbaijan.

On 7 and 8 April 1994, Professor Derek Paunder, an independent forensic expert from Scotland, carried out a second forensic examination, which confirmed the findings of the Commission of the Azerbaijani Ministry of Health. Professor Paunder is a member of 10 international associations and societies concerned with forensic medicine and pathological anatomy, including an American association of medical experts, the Presidium of the International Academy of legal and social medicine, and a British organization of doctors for human rights. The findings of the Azerbaijani and the independent Scottish forensic experts confirmed the assumption about the premeditated and deliberate killing of the prisoners, six of whom were killed by shots fired at close range at the temple. Three of the prisoners had had the cochlear part of the ear torn off. The internal organs (liver, spleen, heart) of one of the prisoners were missing.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic expresses its profound indignation at the inhuman and repulsive acts by the Republic of Armenia and urges the world community as a whole, and all international organizations, to condemn this further act of vandalism against the Azerbaijani prisoners of war, which shows flagrant disregard for the 1949 Geneva Conventions for the protection of war victims, and especially the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, and to demand that the official authorities of the Republic of Armenia desist forthwith from such acts and cease reprisals against Azerbaijani hostages and prisoners of war. The number of these today stands at 3,736 people (of whom, on 15 March, 1,535 were prisoners of war, and the rest old men, women and children). They are being held in Armenian territory and in the Armenian-occupied Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic.